

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 5 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing foreign protein-expressing cells, wherein genes encoding G-protein coupled receptors (GPCRs) ~~that couple with G-proteins other than Gq subtype G-proteins~~ and genes encoding a chimeric Gq α subunit consisting of, from N-terminus to C-terminus, amino acid sequence of Gq α or G₁₁ α subunit N-terminal region encompassing $\beta\gamma$ subunit activation site and amino acid sequence of G₁₄ α , G₁₅ α , or G₁₆ α subunit C-terminal region encompassing receptor binding site are transfected into animal cells and expressed therein.
2. (Previously Presented) The method for preparing foreign protein-expressing cells according to claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence of the N-terminal side of the chimeric Gq α subunit is derived from a Gq or G₁₁ consists of the amino acid sequence of the G₁₁ α subunit and the amino acid sequence of the C-terminal side thereof is derived from a G₁₄, G₁₅, or G₁₆ G₁₄ α subunit.
3. (Original) The method for preparing foreign protein-expressing cells according to claim 1, wherein a gene encoding a GPCR is first transfected and a gene encoding the chimeric Gq α subunit is then transfected 12 to 36 hours thereafter.
4. (Original) The method for preparing foreign protein-expressing cells according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of the amount of genes encoding the chimeric Gq α subunit to that of the genes encoding a GPCR is 1:0.1 to 1:10.
5. (Currently Amended) Foreign protein-expressing cells comprising a G-protein coupled receptor (GPCR) ~~that couples with G-protein other than Gq subtype G-protein~~ that couples with a G-protein other than Gq subtype G-protein and a chimeric Gq α subunit consisting of, from N-terminus to C-terminus, amino acid sequence of Gq α or G₁₁ α subunit N-terminal region encompassing $\beta\gamma$ subunit activation site and amino acid sequence of G₁₄ α , G₁₅ α , or G₁₆ α subunit C-terminal region encompassing receptor binding site.

6. (Previously Presented) The group of foreign protein-expressing cells according to claim 5, wherein the amino acid sequence of the N-terminal side of the chimeric Gq α subunit is derived from a Gq or G₁₁ consists of the amino acid sequence of the G₁₁ α subunit and the amino acid sequence of the C-terminal side thereof is derived from a G₁₄, G₁₅, or G₁₆ G₁₄ α subunit.
7. (Withdrawn) A screening method, wherein a test substance is brought into contact with foreign protein-expressing cells comprising a G-protein coupled receptor (GPCR) and a chimeric Gq α subunit constituted by a portion of a Gq α or G₁₁ α subunit and a portion of a G₁₄ α , G₁₅ α , or G₁₆ α subunit, GPCR activities are assayed, and a ligand of the GPCR is then screened for.
8. (Withdrawn) The screening method according to claim 7, wherein elevation of intracellular Ca concentration is assayed.
9. (Withdrawn) The screening method according to claim 7, wherein changes in a Ca-dependent Cl current are assayed as indicators of intracellular Ca concentration.
10. (Withdrawn) The screening method according to claim 7, wherein the amino acid sequence of the N-terminal side of the chimeric Gq α subunit is derived from a Gq or G₁₁ subunit and the amino acid sequence of the C-terminal side thereof is derived from a G₁₄, G₁₅, or G₁₆ subunit.
11. (Withdrawn) The screening method according to claim 8, wherein the amino acid sequence of the N-terminal side of the chimeric Gq α subunit is derived from a Gq or G₁₁ subunit and the amino acid sequence of the C-terminal side thereof is derived from a G₁₄, G₁₅, or G₁₆ subunit.
12. (Withdrawn) The screening method according to claim 9, wherein the amino acid sequence of the N-terminal side of the chimeric Gq α subunit is derived from a Gq or G₁₁ subunit and the amino acid sequence of the C-terminal side thereof is derived

from a G_{14} , G_{15} , or G_{16} subunit.